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California Commission on Improving Life Through Service 1121 L Street, Suite 103 Sacramento, California 95814 (916) 323-7646

Or you may reach us via your computer at:

Email:

commission@cilts.ca.gov

WWW Home Page:

http://www.cilts.ca.gov

This material is based on work supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service under an AmeriCorps Grant.

MISSION STATEMENT

The California Commission is dedicated to uniting individuals in service to their communities, promoting responsible citizenship, and achieving demonstrable results in addressing California's persistent unmet human, educational, public safety, and environmental needs. Commission members, acting as "Ambassadors of Service" in their local communities, promote, support and build service opportunities and networks which encourage Californians of all backgrounds, abilities and ages to build a California where all residents understand the importance of community service and social responsibility.

This publication can be made available in Braille, large print, computer disk and tape cassette. Those persons who are deaf or hearing impaired may initiate calls through the California Relay Service at 1 (800) 735-2929 (TT). AmeriCorps encourages applicants of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities and provides reasonable accommodations. For more information call the California Commission at (916) 323-7646.



YOU

CAN **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



THE **AMERICORPS** WAY!



MRS. PETE WILSON Honorary Chairperson MR. TODD CLARK

LINDAFORSYTH, Ph.D. Executive Director

California Commission on Improving Life Through Service

THE PROGRAM

The California Commission administers AmeriCorps* USA, a federal national service program, through a network of local area service partnerships, designed to address some of the state's most critical and persistent social problems. Local partnerships engage Americans of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds in "getting things done" throughout the state's urban and rural communities.

The Commission is responsible for developing a comprehensive service plan for California which focuses on: reducing juvenile crime, out-of-wedlock births and teen

pregnancy; recruiting, training and placing adult mentors with at-risk youth; and developing local area service partnerships throughout the state to assist in addressing these and other important issues.

The Commission allocates grant awards to local area service partnerships, comprised of public and private organizations.

Additionally, the Corporation for National Service awards funds to national partnerships with sites in California.

THE MEMBERS

In California, we have thousands of AmeriCorps members tutoring K-12 students, mentoring teens atrisk of dropping out of school or becoming teen parents, assisting local community organizations in their efforts to reduce juvenile crime, and supporting local residents in identifying and addressing their most critical needs.

THE EXECUTIVE ORDER

In January 1994, Governor Pete Wilson established the California Commission via Executive Order, heralding the spirit of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. In February 1996, the Governor focused the Commission's mission with Executive Order W-130-96 to enable it

to better leverage public and private funds to address some of the state's most critical social problems.

THE NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE ETHIC

Getting Things Done:

National service members are committed to meeting the critical needs of local communities through their hands-on work with youth, community residents and other volunteers in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, and unmet human needs.

Strengthening Communities:

National service brings together individuals with diverse abilities, backgrounds and ages to assist and empower local residents in addressing the social epidemics plaguing their communities.

Encouraging Social Responsibility:

National service promotes social responsibility to one's community, and challenges us

lenges us all to be problemsolvers and leaders in our communities.

Expanding Opportunities:

National service expands future opportunities for those who commit to a year of community service.

At the completion of their terms of service, these individuals have acquired new skills, a strong work ethic, a commitment to service, and prepared themselves for more advanced training and development.

MEMBER BENEFITS

National service members receive specialized training in a

wide variety of areas including: leadership, team building, conflict resolution, community outreach, tutoring, mentoring, and more. Members also receive a small living allowance during their term of service and



an education award of \$4,725/ year for full-time participants and \$2,363/year for part-time service upon the successful completion of their term. The education award may be used for college tuition, vocational training or to repay existing student loans.